



CT College of Emergency Physicians
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Written Testimony
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HB 6510, An Act Requiring the Provision of Information Concerning Children's Mental Health Services in Hospital Emergency Rooms

Committee on Children
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Senator Anwar, Representative Linehan, Senator Martin, Representative Dauphinais and the distinguished members of the Committee on Children, my name is Daniel Freess. I am a resident of West Hartford, a practicing Emergency Physician in the Hartford area, a former President of the Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians and the current Legislative Chair. Please accept this testimony and commentary on **Bill 6510 An Act Requiring the Provision of Information Concerning Children's Mental Health Services in Hospital Emergency Rooms.**

I apologize that I will not be available to give oral testimony, but I wanted to provide this written testimony on behalf of the Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians. While the goals of this bill are noble, we feel its requests miss the point. Most of this recommended discharge information (providers, resources, and follow up information) is already provided to all patients and families who present to an emergency department. While the nature, breath, and exact resources provided may benefit from being standardized by this bill, all the components are already standard aspects of discharge instructions and information.

On the other hand, in Connecticut and across the country, there is a dire shortage of these resources and just because one is given this information, does not change their typically limited ability to access these resources. The state can come up with a dictionary size "discharge packet" with the phone number, address, and for every psychiatric resource in the state and region, but it will make no difference if no one can access these resources.

While we are not against the creation and provision of this information, we hope that the legislature will focus its efforts and work with all relevant stakeholders to find ways to expand existing psychiatric resources, assist in the development of new resources, and fund all available options to the fullest.

Thank you for your time and do not hesitate to reach out for any further questions, comments, or clarification as needed.